



January 12, 2018

Delta Independent Science Board  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via e-mail: [Edmund.Yu@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:Edmund.Yu@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

**Subject: Draft Prospectus: Review of the Organization, Development, and Use of Science in Estimating Water Supply Reliability Involving the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

Dear Board Members:

Regional San appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB) Draft Prospectus: Review of the organization, development, and use of science in estimating water supply reliability involving the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Draft Prospectus). Regional San provides wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment for over 1.4 million people in the Sacramento region. On average, we safely treat and discharge 140 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater in accordance with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Regional San is in the process of constructing its EchoWater Project, a nearly \$2 billion investment that will produce high-quality disinfected tertiary treated water suitable for recycling and reuse for a broad range of beneficial uses.

As the ISB evaluates opportunities to jointly manage water for water supply and ecosystem purposes, as well as the relative roles of surface water, groundwater and water demand management, we encourage the ISB to promote the use of recycled water. Statewide, numerous innovative recycled water projects are helping water managers achieve local water supply reliability, and most importantly, in some cases, reducing reliance on Delta waters. There are also innovative recycled water projects that are supporting both water supply reliability and ecosystem sustainability in the Delta region. One such project is the South Sacramento County Agricultural and Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program (South County Ag Program) that is being developed by Regional San.

The South County Ag Program will deliver up to 50,000 acre feet of recycled water per year to approximately 16,000 acres of land in southern Sacramento County, near the Cosumnes River, Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge, and the Cosumnes River Preserve. Since the Program would provide recycled water to these existing agricultural lands that currently pump groundwater, it would reduce withdrawals of groundwater and allow groundwater levels in the Program area to recover (via in-lieu ground water recharge), improve riparian habitats and increase instream flows of the Cosumnes River, a tributary to the Delta.

The South County Ag Program would provide a sustainable, drought-proof water supply for agriculture, urban, and environmental purposes. Some of the Program's benefits include the following.

- Recharges groundwater supplies and increases groundwater levels up to 30 feet.

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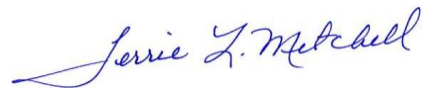
- Increases flows in the Cosumnes River in the Highway 99 area during critical fish passage and spawning periods, which in turn flows to the Delta.
- Helps promote ecosystem restoration and viability of unique habitats and special status species in the Delta and its tributaries, such as riparian oak woodlands, vernal complexes, as well as Chinook salmon, giant garter snake, Sandhill crane, White-tailed Kite, and Swainson's hawk.
- Enhances smart irrigation practices through the use of recycled water.
- Provides groundwater storage opportunities for regional water supply reliability.

The South County Ag Project is supported by a broad group of local and regional stakeholders, such as the Cosumnes River Preserve, the Delta Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Defense Fund, The Sacramento County Farm Bureau and many others.

For more information on the South County Ag Project, including its certified environmental impact report, visit <https://www.regionalsan.com/south-county-ag-program>.

Regional San appreciates the opportunity to comment and we look forward to working with the ISB in reviewing the use of science in estimating water supply reliability involving Delta, with the overall goal of leading to better informed management and policy decisions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 876-6092 or [mitchellt@sacsewer.com](mailto:mitchellt@sacsewer.com) or Sam Safi at (916) 876-6290 or [safis@sacsewer.com](mailto:safis@sacsewer.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terrie L. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the start of the name.

Terrie Mitchell  
Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

cc: Prabhakar Somavarapu, Regional San District Engineer  
Christoph Dobson, Regional San Director of Policy and Planning  
Lisa Thompson, Regional San Chief Scientist  
Tim Mussen, Regional San Scientist  
Sam Safi, Regional San Associate Engineer